

SITUATION REPORT NO. 13
INCIDENT NO. 96-37
DATE: April 29, 1996 **TIME: 9:00 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood. (Separate situation reports are being issued regarding Devils Lake, incident #96-01.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: The Eddy County Emergency Manager reported that seven miles of Federal Aid System (FAS) roads in the county are completely broken up. Streets within the city of New Rockford are also reported to be breaking up.

The Souris River at Westhope continued its slow rise and was recorded at 15.9 feet on April 27, just below its predicted crest of 16 feet on April 28. Flood stage is 10 feet. River levels are falling in the upper end of the Souris River, from Sherwood to Foxholm. These levels will cause agricultural lands to be flooded.

The pool elevation at Jamestown Dam has risen to a record elevation of 1,444.60 feet M.S.L., requiring releases to be increased 100 cfs to 1,000 cfs, a new record. Pipestem Dam releases were reduced from 200 cfs to 100 cfs, keeping combined releases from the two dams at 1,100 cfs. Flows at this level require close monitoring and several mitigation actions. The Jamestown Dam is forecast to peak at 1,445.0 feet M.S.L. with average rainfall.

The elevation of Spiritwood Lake continues to increase due to excessive runoff, threatening lake cabins.

The Sheyenne River at the city of Lisbon was recorded at 16.4 feet on April 28; flood stage is 11 feet. The river crested at 17.3 feet on April 26.

The Sheyenne River at the city of Kindred was recorded at 20.3 feet on April 28; flood stage is 16 feet. The predicted crest is 22.0-22.5 feet on May 1-2.

The West Fargo Diversion was recorded at 13.1 feet on April 28; flood stage is 16.5 feet. The predicted crest is near flood stage on May 3-4.

On April 28, the Red River at Pembina was recorded at 51.3 feet. A crest of 52 feet on April 30-May 1 is forecast. Flood stage is 42 feet.

The Pembina River at Walhalla crested at 12.75 feet on April 26. At Necho, the crest was at 22.74 feet on April 27.

In Joliet Township, Pembina County, a mobile home was inundated with flood waters when a rural dike was breached. No one was injured.

The Red River at Fargo fell below its 17-foot flood stage on April 27.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The American Red Cross (ARC) has reported that 242 volunteers and staff members have helped with disaster response efforts in the Grand Forks area. Of those, 185 are from the Grand Forks area and 57 came from other locations.

A preliminary ARC damage assessment report has listed 178 homes with damage in the Grand Forks area. Extent of damage has not been determined.

The ARC assigned a worker to Pembina County to work with the Salvation Army in determining long-term needs of residents. The Salvation Army referred nine households to the ARC for long-term needs.

The ARC will open a service center in Pembina beginning April 29.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The ND Department of Health has distributed information packets addressing water supply protection to 27 county emergency managers, for subsequent distribution to citizens.

The Foster County Commission issued a disaster declaration on April 26.

New Rockford city road crews are repairing the city streets and cleaning drainage ditches, which officials believe are contributing to the breakup of streets.

A bridge located at First Street West in Jamestown was closed because it was restricting the flow of water and creating higher river elevations upstream. A canal was dug on the east and west sides of the bridge to allow more water to pass by the bridge.

The Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued Jamestown officials a permit to build a dike immediately below Jamestown Dam to prevent higher river levels from backing up into a residential area.

On April 27, the Pembina County Emergency Manager, Pembina City Flood Coordinator and the RACES Coordinator conducted aerial surveillance of both the Red and Pembina Rivers. Water is overtopping channels on both of the rivers, particularly east of Neche on the Pembina River and from Drayton north to the city of Pembina on the Red River.

The Pembina County Emergency Manager reported that the County Highway Department had delivered an additional 4,000 sandbags to Neche on April 27 as a preparedness measure.

The State Emergency Operations Center remained operational during the weekend of April 27-28, 1996.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER INFORMATION: Aides from Senator Dorgan's Fargo office visited flood affected areas in eastern North Dakota on April 26.

In Pembina County, the emergency manager and other officials have begun discussions on long-term solutions to flooding, such as watershed projects and other hazard mitigation projects.

The City of Drayton will continue dike monitoring efforts until the river drops below 40.0 feet.

Signed _____
Douglas C. Friez
State Director